

## PRESS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

DATE: 7 March 2013

### **Sit Back and Relax. Enjoy Wonderful Music at HK Phil's Brand New "Swire Denim" Series, Perfect for Busy Urbanites and Music Lovers**

Concerts Start at 9PM and Feature Star Cellist Jian Wang (Baroque @ 9PM), Legendary Jazz Icon James Morrison & HK's Own Jazz Trio (Jazz @ 9PM) and Maestro Jaap van Zweden who Conducts the Public's Favourite Classical Music (Jaap @ 9PM)

**[7 March 2013, Hong Kong]** Sit back, relax, and get into the weekend mood with the **Hong Kong Philharmonic's** innovative concert series – **Swire Denim** – in **April** and **May**. This brand new series, which comprises of three amazing programmes, each with its own theme, starting at **9PM** and bringing a little over an hour of great music, is designed to fit with the lifestyle of Hong Kong busy urbanites.

World famous cellist [Jian Wang](#) returns to perform Bach's Cello Suite at **Baroque @ 9PM**. Alongside Bach's great classics will be intriguing music which he has inspired through the centuries. Witness democracy at work as Music Director [Jaap van Zweden](#) realises the public's wish and creates a programme designed by music lovers at **Jaap @ 9PM**. Legendary jazz icon [James Morrison](#) and his band of Hong Kong's best jazz cats will be playing the biggest hits for jazz trumpet by 'Duke' Ellington, Herb Alpert, Hoagy Carmichael and more (**Jazz @ 9PM**).

#### **What's New:**

- **Concerts start at 9PM** – the perfect time to relax after a busy day and to set the mood for a fantastic weekend
- **The Public Chooses the Programme** – Concertgoers vote on their favourite classics for Maestro Jaap van Zweden to conduct (Jaap @ 9PM)
- **HK Phil x Chevignon Limited Edition T-shirt** – See the musicians in relaxed mode as they sport specially designed exclusive T-shirts from Chevignon, the famed French apparel brand
- **Off-stage Activities** – music lovers can mingle freely with the HK Phil musicians after the concerts
- **Swire Denim Official Website** [www.hkphil.org/swiredenim](http://www.hkphil.org/swiredenim) – To be launched in mid March, the official website provides all the latest information and the public can cast their votes

**Swire Denim: “Baroque @ 9PM”** will be held on **5&6 April (Fri & Sat), 9PM**. **Swire Denim: “Jaap @ 9PM”** will be held on **3&4 May (Fri & Sat), 9PM** and **Swire Denim: “Jazz @ 9PM”** will be held on **17&18 May (Fri & Sat), 9PM**. All concerts will be held in **Hong Kong Cultural Centre Concert Hall**. Tickets priced: \$280, \$200, \$160, \$120 are available at URBTIX now.

### **Swire Denim: “Baroque @ 9PM”**

#### **Artists**

#### **Julian Wachner, conductor** [\[full biography\]](#)

Born in California and raised in New York City, Julian Wachner is one of North America’s most exciting and versatile musicians, sought-after as conductor, composer, and keyboard artist.

In his new position as the inaugural Director of Music and the Arts at New York’s historic Trinity Wall Street, Wachner serves as Principal Conductor of the Trinity Choir, the Trinity Baroque Orchestra and NOVUS NY, in addition to overseeing Trinity’s numerous and varied concert offerings, museum expositions, dance and theatre performances, poetry and literary readings, and educational and outreach initiatives in lower Manhattan and Brooklyn.

#### **Jian Wang, cello** [\[full biography\]](#)

Jian Wang began to study the cello with his father when he was four. While a student at the Shanghai Conservatoire, he was featured in the celebrated documentary film *From Mao to Mozart: Isaac Stern in China*. Mr Stern’s encouragement and support paved the way for him to go to the United States and in 1985 he entered the Yale School of Music under a special programme where he studied with the renowned cellist Aldo Parisot.

In recent seasons Wang’s engagements have included performances in Los Angeles, Brussels, Taipei and Singapore, and débuts with the London Symphony and Kristjan Järvi and with the Cincinnati Symphony and Louis Langrée. His performances in China included playing for the President and opening the season for China Philharmonic and Shanghai Symphony, as well as performing the complete Bach Cello Suites at the National Centre for Performing Arts.

## Programme

From super-charged versions arranged for full symphonic orchestra, to the intimacy of his solo cello music, this concert explores the genius of J. S. Bach in ‘shuffle’ mode. Alongside his great classics will be intriguing music which Bach has inspired through the centuries, from The Beatles, Arvo Pärt, Tchaikovsky and Eighth Blackbird.

## Swire Denim: “Jaap @ 9PM”

### Artist

**Jaap van Zweden, conductor** [[full biography](#)]

Amsterdam-born Jaap van Zweden is one of today’s most sought-after conductors. Named *Musical America’s* Conductor of the Year for 2012, he is the new Music Director of the Hong Kong Philharmonic from the 2012/13 Season. Maestro van Zweden is currently Music Director of the Dallas Symphony Orchestra, Honorary Chief Conductor of the Netherlands Radio Philharmonic Orchestra and Honorary Conductor of the Radio Chamber Philharmonic.

Prestigious orchestras he works with regularly include the Chicago Symphony, the Boston Symphony, the New York, Munich and London Philharmonic Orchestras, and the Orchestre National de France. Opera also plays an important part in his activities. His repertoire includes *La Traviata* and *Fidelio*, *Die Meistersinger von Nürnberg*, *Parsifal* and *Vanessa*. His live recording of Steven Stucky’s concert drama, *August 4, 1964*, with the Dallas Symphony Orchestra and Chorus, has been nominated for a 2013 GRAMMY Award®.

## Programme

What is the piece of orchestral music you couldn’t live without? We’re taking your votes for a concert where Hong Kong decides what its orchestra will perform. Now is your chance to rediscover all your favourites, and have your say in what the HK Phil plays on 3 and 4 May, when Music Director Jaap van Zweden conducts a concert of Hong Kong’s best-loved music. Voting polls will be opened soon! You can make your vote, online or using your mobile device, from a shortlist of 50 all-time classics – or if we’ve missed your personal favourite, email ([vote@hkphil.org](mailto:vote@hkphil.org)) us and have your say.

Want to know how to vote for your favourite classic and get it played at the concert? Tune into **Swire Denim** series website at [www.hkphil.org/swiredenim](http://www.hkphil.org/swiredenim) from **Mid March!**

Voting Procedures:

1. Go to [www.hkphil.org/swiredenim](http://www.hkphil.org/swiredenim)
2. Login to your Facebook account
3. Make your vote from a shortlist of 50 pieces (each Facebook account can only cast ONE vote) or suggest your personal favourite to [vote@hkphil.org](mailto:vote@hkphil.org) **on or before 12 April (Fri)**
4. State the reason and get into the lucky draw to win the **HK Phil x Chevignon** limited edition T-shirt

### **Swire Denim: “Jazz @ 9PM”**

#### **Artists**

#### **Benjamin Northey, conductor** [\[full biography\]](#)

Since returning to Australia from Europe in 2006 Benjamin Northey has rapidly emerged as one of the nation’s leading musical figures. After blazing a unique trail as a highly successful Australian-based conductor, Northey was appointed Associate Conductor of the Melbourne Symphony Orchestra in 2011. His breadth of experience has enabled him to traverse the widest range of musical styles from traditional orchestral programs, new music, opera, ballet, innovative cross-genre collaborations through to education and community outreach projects.

Northey is the recipient of numerous awards including the 2010 Melbourne Prize Outstanding Musician Award, the Brian Stacey Memorial Award, the Nelly Apt Scholarship and the 2007 *Limelight* Magazine Best Newcomer Award.

#### **James Morrison, trumpet** [\[full biography\]](#)

Besides the trumpet, virtuoso and multi-instrumentalist James Morrison also plays trombone, euphonium, flugel horn, tuba, saxophones, double bass and piano. At only age 16 James debuted in the USA with the Monterey Jazz Festival.

James has recorded *Jazz Meets the Symphony* with The London Symphony Orchestra, performed concerts at the Royal Albert Hall with the London Philharmonic Orchestra and at the Royal Opera House, Covent Garden. Royal command performances on two occasions for Her Majesty Queen

Elizabeth II and for US Presidents Bush & Clinton. In 1997, James was awarded a medal of The Order of Australia.

**Eugene Pao**, guitar [\[full biography\]](#)

Simply put, Eugene Pao is Hong Kong's most publicly recognized jazz musician and his name is synonymous with jazz in our city. Such reputation cannot be more deserving as Eugene has been at the vanguard of promoting jazz in the territory through his performances and recordings over the last twenty plus years. Hong Kong first discovered its own guitar hero in the mid 1980's when Eugene returned from studies in the U.S. and began playing around town. Recognition came early from leading international jazz musicians.

Over the last two decades, Eugene Pao has truly established himself as Hong Kong's premier jazz guitarist. He continues to travel the world for performances at international jazz festivals, concert halls and jazz clubs, and to take part in select recording projects. As a composer, He had contributed to countless TV commercials, and his film soundtracks have been nominated for best original score at the HK Film Awards.

**Anthony Fernandes**, drum

Anthony Fernandes, one of the most popular drum players for recording session and concerts in Hong Kong, has performed for more than 75 Canto Pop Artists from Hong Kong and Taiwan and has played for more than 700 live Canto Pop Concerts (not counting the jazz, latin etc.).

**Sylvain Gagnon**, double bass [\[full biography\]](#)

Considered as one of the best bass player of his generation coming from Montreal, Sylvain Gagnon has extensive international touring and recording experience. He is a virtuoso of jazz bass playing and has experience in music from many continents and styles ranging from rock to standard jazz, from Carnatic (classical music from South India) to African music, from funk to Latin music, from solo to big band. His technical abilities and musical sense have helped him build a strong reputation as a bass player as well as a leader.

In Hong Kong, he arranged for, recorded and performed with numerous well known artists such as

Leon Lai, Sandy Lam, Miriam Yeung, Bianca Wo, Justin Lo, Chris Wong, Georges Lam, Teddy Robbin, Prudence Liew, Kenny Bee, Elisa Chan, Mimi Lo, Jackie Cheung and many more.

### **Programme**

Join jazz legend James Morrison for a cool night of hot jazz in the Cultural Centre. James Morrison and his band of Hong Kong's best jazz cats will be playing the biggest hits for jazz trumpet by 'Duke' Ellington, Herb Alpert, Hoagy Carmichael and more. And we'll have a special moment of tribute to the great cinema composer Lalo Schifrin, with his *'Enter the Dragon'* and *'Mission Impossible'* themes.

## Swire Denim: Baroque @ 9PM

5&6 | 4 | 2013

FRI & SAT 9PM

HK Cultural Centre Concert Hall

HK\$280 \$200 \$160 \$120

Available at URBTIX now

For ages 6 and above

### Partners



### Artists

[Julian Wachner](#) conductor

[Jian Wang](#) cello

Click the thumbnails to download press images [Or hold Ctrl then click to open the file]



## Programme

**BACH (arr. Stokowski)**

*Toccatà and Fugue in D minor*

**SHOSTAKOVICH** Prelude and Fugue

**BACH (arr. Sargent)**

Orchestral Suite No.3: Air on a G String

**PÄRT** *Collage über B-A-C-H*

**BACH** Suite No.5 in C minor for Cello: Sarabande

**BACH** Pièce d'Orgue, BWV572, *Fantasia in G*

**LENNON/McCARTNEY** *Blackbird*

**DAVID LANG** *These Broken Wings* (commissioned by eighth blackbird)

**BACH/Grainger** *Blithe Bells*

**TCHAIKOVSKY** *Rococo Variations*



## Swire Denim: Jaap @ 9PM

3&4 | 5 | 2013

FRI & SAT 9PM

HK Cultural Centre Concert Hall

HK\$280 \$200 \$160 \$120

Available at URBTIX now

For ages 6 and above

### Partners



### Artists

[Jaap van Zweden](#) conductor

Click the thumbnails to download press images [Or hold Ctrl then click to open the file]



## Swire Denim: Jazz @ 9PM

17&18 | 5 | 2013

FRI & SAT 9PM

HK Cultural Centre Concert Hall

HK\$280 \$200 \$160 \$120

Available at URBTIX now

For ages 6 and above

### Partners



### Artists

- [Benjamin Northey](#) conductor  
[James Morrison](#) trumpet  
[Eugene Pao](#) guitar  
[Sylvain Gagnon](#) double bass  
Anthony Fernandes drum

Click the thumbnails to download press images [Or hold Ctrl then click to open the file]



**Programme**

**SCHIFRIN** *Enter the Dragon*

**HERMAN** *Hello, Dolly!*

**ELLINGTON** *It Don't Mean a Thing if it Ain't Got That Swing*

**ELLINGTON** *Don't Get Around Much Anymore*

**ALPERT** *Tijuana Taxi*

**ALPERT** *Spanish Flea*

**ELLINGTON** *Mood Indigo*

**ELLINGTON** *C Jam Blues*

**CARMICHAEL** *Up a Lazy River*

**ELLINGTON** *Take the A Train*

**ELLINGTON** *El Gato*

**ELLINGTON** *Satin Doll*

**SCHIFRIN** *Mission Impossible*

## Ticketing Information

Credit Card Booking

**(852) 2111 5999**

Online Booking

[www.urbtix.hk](http://www.urbtix.hk)

For programme enquiry, please call HK Phil at

**(852) 2721 2030**

Or go on our website:

[www.hkphil.org](http://www.hkphil.org)

--- END ---

---

For further press information please contact:

**Paul Tam, Director of Marketing**

Tel: +852 2721 9035      Cell: +852 9650 6818      Email: [paul.tam@hkphil.org](mailto:paul.tam@hkphil.org)

**Alice Luk, Assistant Corporate Communications Manager**

Tel: +852 2721 1585      Cell: +852 6280 0156      Email: [alice.luk@hkphil.org](mailto:alice.luk@hkphil.org)

## Hong Kong Philharmonic

Music Director: Jaap van Zweden

As the city's largest and busiest musical organisation, the Hong Kong Philharmonic is a vital part of Hong Kong's cultural life. In 2013/14 the HK Phil will celebrate its 40th professional season, but its roots stretch back well over a century. The HK Phil has now evolved into an orchestral powerhouse of the region, and an acclaimed cultural centrepiece of Asia's World City.

The HK Phil is founded on the belief that a great city deserves a great orchestra. Annually it presents over 150 concerts for 200,000 music lovers. Featuring an enviable roster of international and local artists, with many concerts presented free, among them the annual *Swire Symphony Under The Stars*. Through its acclaimed education programme, over 40,000 young people learned about orchestral music last year.

The HK Phil's members come from every corner of the globe, joining its strong core of Hong Kong musicians. In September 2012, Jaap van Zweden became the orchestra's Music Director. Future years will see an ambitious series of new projects, with major international tours, renewed local partnerships, and large-scale concert events. The HK Phil has recently commenced a multi-CD recording project for Naxos, featuring works by Chinese composers.

The Hong Kong Philharmonic is financially supported by the Government of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region

SWIRE is the Principal Patron of the Hong Kong Philharmonic

The Hong Kong Philharmonic is a Venue Partner of the Hong Kong Cultural Centre